

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 074872

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 831 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO BEIRUT AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JEDDA KUWAIT THE AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 22 MAR 78

QUOTE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0831

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON - PROBLEMS WITH SYRIANS AND OTHERS

REF: BEIRUT 1540

1. WHEN I SAW SIILASVUO MORNING MARCH 22, HE WAS ON TOP OF
UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND THOROUGHLY PREPARED TO GO TO DAMASCUS
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TO URGE SYRIANS PRESSURE PLO TO RESPECT CEASEFIRE, HALT
IRAQI CONVOYS AND ADVANCE TO LITANI RIVER.

2. HE INITIALLY PLANNED TO MAKE TRIP MARCH 23 AND REMARKED
SYRIANS HAD AGREED AT ONCE. WALDHEIM THOUGHT FOR COSMETIC
REASONS, HE SHOULD TALK TO LEBANESE EN ROUTE. SUDDENLY,

SYRIANS, MID-DAY MARCH 22, PROPOSED TRIP BE POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH 25.

3. IT IS HARD TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHAT EFFECT BOUTROS' ACCOUNT OF ABORTIVE HOSS MISSION (BEIRUT 1540) WILL HAVE ON SIILASVUO. DURING OUR CONVERSATION, HE THOUGHT ISRAEL, LEBANON, AND SYRIA WERE ALL INTERESTED IN HAVING PLO BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL. AMBASSADOR MURPHY IS THE EXPERT AS TO WHETHER THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE AND WHETHER SYRIANS COULD BE COAXED OR MANEUVERED, WITH SIILASVUO'S HELP, INTO ADVANCING FROM ZAHRANI TO LITANI IF A FIRM TIMETABLE CAN BE WORKED OUT.

4. SIILASVUO IS A VETERAN OF SEVERAL WARS AND MARATHON NEGOTIATIONS IN ME. HE IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS. ON HIS RETURN FROM BEIRUT MARCH 21, HE REAMRKED OF GOL, "THEY ARE SO PLEASANT -- AND SO HELPLESS." QUESTION IS WHETHER WE SHOULD GIVE SIILASVUO GIST OF BEIRUT 1540 PRIOR TO HIS TRIP OR LET HIM HEAR LEBANESE VIEWS DIRECTLY FROM BOUTROS.

5. FOR BEIRUT: HE IS WILLING TO MEET AMBASSADOR PARKER DURING HIS BEIRUT STOPOVER. HE INITALLY PROPOSED TO ARRIVE 0930 AND MEET AT BOUTROS' OFFICE OR AT AIRPORT, HOPING FM WOULD OPT FOR LATTER. IF AIRPORT ACCEPTABLE, HE WOULD SET TIME FOR MEETING WITH FM TO ENABLE HIM HAVE PRIOR DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR PARKER. ALTERNATIVELY,
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THEY MIGHT MEET BRIEFLY AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO SIILASVUO'S DEPARTURE FOR BOUTROS' OFFICE. AMBASSADOR PARKER'S VIEWS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

6. FOR DEPARTMENT: WE WILL BE IN CONTINUING CLOSE CONTACT WITH SIILASVUO ON UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DOES DEPARTMENT WISH ME TO PASS ON PRIOR TO HIS POSTPONED DAMASCUS TRIP?
NEWLIN
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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